

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2137

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS LUANDA 0182

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, PINS, AO, PO

SUBJECT: IMPACT ON MILITARY OF SECURITY PROBLEMS IN PORTUGAL

1. CINC LUZ CUNHA IN MARCH 26 INTERVIEW BY DIARIO DE LUANDA ASKED TO COMMENT ON EFFECT OF POLITICAL ATTITUDES AND TERRORISM IN PORTUGAL ON MORALE OF TROOPS IN FIELD. RELEVANT SECTIONS OF "INTERVIEW" FOLLOW.

QUESTION: THERE IS FEELING OF UNEASINESS IN OVERSEAS OVER "POLITICAL ATTITUDES" IN METROPOLE, INCLUDING INSISTENCE ON DEBATING WAY IN WHICH THE WAR IS BEING CONDUCTED. THIS IN TURN HAS LED TO A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE LEGITIMACY OF THE STRUGGLE. PRESUMABLY THESE SENTIMENTS ARE ALSO OF CONCERN IN CERTAIN MILITARY CIRCLES. THE TACTICS OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION GROUPS IN METROPOLE VIS- A- VIS ARMED FORCES HAVE SHIFTED FROM URGING MEN TO DESERT TO " ATTEMPTING ... TO CREATE AMONG RECRUITS A SPIRIT OF OPPOSITION" WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO SURFACE WHEN THEY REACH THEIR MILITARY DESTINATION, IN FIELD. ARE MILITARY IN ANGOLA AFFECTED?

ANSWER: FATIGUE OR LASSITUDE ARE INEVITABLE IN SUBVERSIVE WAR, BUT ENEMY IS MORE EXHAUSTED AND DEMORALIZED THEN WE ARE. IT IS TRUE THAT CERTAIN " VULNERABLE" GROUPS IN METROPOLE HAVE BEEN SUBVERTED BY ENEMY. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE WHEN SO MANY THOUSANDS OF PATRIOTS ARE RISKING LIVES FOR PORTUGAL. THERE ARE NO SIGNS

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THAT MORALE OF THOSE SERVING IALTERNATIVE TO
FEDAYEEN EXTREMISM.
SEELYE

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

SECRET

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